

April-June 2013

Company F Forward!

A Living History of Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry



Message from the President's Desk

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Dear Friends of Co. F,

2013 has been a memorable year for us. We met new friends at first time events with the Somers Historical Society, Fort Trumbull State Park, Bristol Historical Society and the Weston Historical Society and greeted old friends at the Seymour, and Middlesex County Historical Societies and the West Haven Veterans and Living Center. Many of us were privileged to be on the Gettysburg Battlefield on the same days the original 14th CVI fought that momentous battle 150 years later, conducting living history activities for the National Park Service. But more importantly, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement for our mission of education and preservation through your event honorariums and donations that have allowed us to make over \$7,360 in donations towards preservation projects in our three years as an organization.

Although our 2013 campaign season is drawing to a close, we have begun initial planning for 2014 events in 2014 for the 375th anniversary of the Town of Guilford, the 100th anniversary of Fort Trumbull State Park and for new events with the Stratford, Cromwell and Cornwall Historical Societies. Once again we will be making a return to the Seymour Historical Society. 2014 marks the 4th year in the 150th Commemoration of the Civil War. It is not too early to contact me about living history events for 2015 and beyond.

On behalf of Co. F I wish you and yours the most happy of holidays this holy season and for the new year ahead.

Your Obedient Servant,
Irving Moy

Irving Moy, President

Chris Purrone, Vice President

Paul Martinello, Treasurer

Gary Horton, Recording Secretary

Karen Purrone, Member-At Large
Newsletter Editor and Facebook Admin.

Bill Mellow, Webmaster





Noteworthy

Co. F, Fourteenth Connecticut 2013 Donations toward Preservation and to the Civil War Trust

2013- \$3,394.00

- \$38.00- to the Gettysburg Foundation for the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg in Honor and Memory of the members in Co. F 14th CT Vol. Inf., who were killed in the Battle and in Honor and Memory of all members of 14th CVI, who died at Gettysburg;
- \$100.00- to the Middlesex County Historical Society towards preservation of its Civil War collections;
- \$100.00- at a 4.19 to 1 match towards saving battlefield land at Gettysburg in 150th Commemoration of the battle;
- \$200.00- at a 4.19 to 1 match towards saving 112 acres at Gettysburg (two (2) donations of \$100 each were made towards this preservation project);
- \$100.00- at a 109 to 1 match towards saving 5 Battlefields in Campaign 150;
- \$50.00- at a 4.94 to 1 match in Memory of Tom Reimer, Honorary Member, towards saving 69 acres around Richmond at the Glendale, First Deep Bottom and Malvern Hill Battlefields;
- \$100.00- to the New England Civil War Museum towards preservation of its 14th CVI Collection;
- \$100.00- at a 10 to 1 match towards saving 39 acres at Ball's Bluff;
- \$100.00- at a 13 to 1 match towards saving 37 acres at Chancellorsville NMP;
- \$100.00- 10 to 1 match towards saving 3 acres at Ball's Bluff NMP;
- \$100.00- 1 to 1 match to pay down the purchase of the Slaughter Pen Farm on the Fredericksburg NMP;
- \$500.00- 4:19 to 1 match towards saving 37 areas at Gettysburg NMP given by Warren and Becky Stevens in loving memory of his parents, Arthur and Christine Stevens, who introduced Warren to Gettysburg during the 100th Anniversary of the Battle in 1963;
- \$1,000.00- The Civil War Trust Regimental Color Bearer Donor renewal;
- \$100.00- to the New Britain Historical Society towards purchase of the Hatch Building for its new home;

Noteworthy, continued

\$50.00- 3 to 1 match in Memory of James Allen Knisely, Uncle of Jennifer Lawrence, towards saving 12 acres on East Cemetery Hill on the Gettysburg Battlefield;

\$100.00- 13 to 1 match towards saving 37 acres at Chancellorsville NMP;

\$100.00- 3 to 1 match towards saving 12 acres at Gettysburg NMP;

\$100.00- 2.29 to 1 match towards saving 11 acres at Vicksburg NMP;

\$100.00- 10 to 1 match towards saving 3 acres at Balls Bluff NMP;

\$100.00- 10 to 1 match towards saving 109 acres at Chickamauga NMP;

\$56.00- to the Gettysburg Foundation for Remembrance Day Luminaries in Gettysburg in memory and honor of the 14th CVI troops that fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and for their heroism at the Bliss Barn and Farmhouse; In memory and honor of all Connecticut troops that fought in the Battle of Gettysburg; In memory and honor of Patrick Clark and Frederick Standish, Co. A; Samuel A. Moore, Co. F and Alfred Carter, Co. G, whose descendents are members of Co. F, 14th CVI;

\$50.00- 10 to 1 match towards saving 109 acres at Reeds Bridge at Chickamauga NMP;

\$50.00- 11 to 1 match towards saving 318 acres of the Antietam Campaign at South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Antietam and Shepherdstown;

Noteworthy, continued



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October 3, 2013

Company F, 14th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
30 Babolink Ln
Somers, CT 06077-1641

Dear Friends,

It is a true pleasure to have you continue on as a member of the Color Bearers. I am proud to be able to recognize you as one of our strongest supporters and I hope that you are proud of all we have accomplished together in the name of battlefield preservation. Your leadership and generosity are exceptional and I wish there was a way to adequately thank you for your ongoing commitment.

Due to your philanthropy, we have now saved more than 36,000 acres of hallowed Civil War battlefields. Renewing your Color Bearer membership with your gift of 1000 ensures that our important work together can continue and expand. As the race against destructive development persists, this is more critical than ever. What better way to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the War than by creating a lasting and tangible legacy for our children and grandchildren. I cannot thank you enough.

Your updated membership card is included below and as a Regimental Color Bearer, you will continue to receive the many benefits associated with your membership:

- *Invitations to participate in special Trust-sponsored tours and programs (including the "Color Bearer-only" tour at the Annual Conference);
- *Our award-winning magazine publication *Hallowed Ground* as well as updates letting you know what battlefields we're working to preserve

Thank you once again for your exceptional support.

Your friend,

Jim Lighthizer
President

*Thank you my good friends of CoF, 14 Reg!
your continued support is most appreciated*

Please use IRS Code requirements for contributions of charitable contributions, please use the correct reporting Code number described above and use the appropriate reporting code for all gifts. If you do not use the appropriate Code number, your gift will not be eligible for a tax deduction. The Civil War Trust's fiscal year is 12/31/2013.

Noteworthy, continued



Irving giving his talk about Joseph Pierce at the West Haven Veteran's and Military Museum in West Haven.

Irving Moy to Serve on National Park Service Advisory Committee

Irving Moy, President of Co. F who portrays the Chinese soldier, Joseph Pierce, and is the author of "My American Journey-My Father, Lincoln, Joseph Pierce and Me", has been asked by the National Park Service (NPS) to be on its committee to serve as an advisor for a publication on "Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Civil War". This publication will be the third in a series with the first being "Hispanics and the Civil War", and the second, "American Indians in the Civil War". The NPS's vision for the series for the 150th Commemoration of the Civil War, is to tell the story from multiple perspectives for the war to be relevant to more people and to people, once disenfranchised, to realize that this is their story, too, and that they can be very proud of their ancestors' contribution at this critical time in the nation's history.

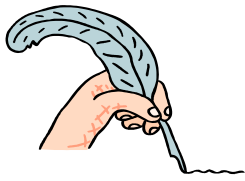
In extending the invitation, Carol Shively, the project supervisor for the series, wrote, "What a story. Plunking a man from relative obscurity and finally giving him the honor he is due. This is such important work you have done. We (NPS), and the nation, are indebted to you".

Pvt. Loren H Goodrich, 14th CVI

Jeff Lawrence has made an important contribution to the collective knowledge of the 14th CVI, by integrating the letters of Loren Goodrich, Co. F with the 14th regimental history by Charles D. Page and other sources, to provide us with a clearer understanding of what Goodrich and other common soldiers of the 14th went through during the most important battles during the Civil War and the aftermath. His elegant and riveting writing is a valuable contribution to our "Historical Writings" page and honors the memory of a common soldier whose story would have remained in the archives of the CT State Library if not for Jeff's love of research, innate curiosity and ability to bring this to life for present and future generations. Enjoy Loren's account as told by Jeff on our "Historical Writings" page on www.cofl4thevi.com under "Pvt. Loren H. Goodrich". (Note that the newest entries are on top, so if reading through, start at the bottom.)

Photo courtesy Jeff Lawrence. Pvt. Goodrich's headstone in the Center Cemetery, East Hartford





After Action Reports

Fort Trumbull Living History June 15, 2013

With weather that could only be described as optimal, the men and women of Company F of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, joined by their comrades from the 119th New York, 6th New Hampshire, and the ever-faithful Lawrence Clan from the 22nd Massachusetts, and under the fearless leadership of Lieutenant Paul Martinello gathered at the citadel known as Fort Trumbull in New London, CT for a living history event there. The rain of the previous several days gave way to blue skies, moderate temperatures, and a fine breeze off the Thames River, making the encampment, exhibits, and presentations all the more enjoyable.

A number of the contingent arrived the previous evening and camped overnight, with the remainder arriving piecemeal throughout the morning. By 10:00 am however, the grounds outside Fort Trumbull were home to a first rate company street replete with dog tents, officer's tent, and the always ubiquitous "dog robber" tent, all manned by a handsome company of infantrymen. Meanwhile, the fine ladies of the company erected their exhibits on the U.S. Christian Commission, women contributions on the home front, period games and Civil War medicine inside the fort proper. Karl Bacon, author of *An Eye For Glory-The Civil War Chronicles of a Citizen Soldier* based on firsthand accounts of the 14th CVI, joined us for a "meet and greet the author" session. Shortly after 10:00 am, the orders were given to assemble the company, which was done promptly and with only a minimum of grumbling. Once rifle inspections had concluded, volunteers were selected to man the guard post. This was led by Lieutenant Rob Weber of the 119th New York as well as his Corporal of the same unit. The Lawrence Clan and yours truly rounded out the guard, whose duty it was to guard the entrance of the fort and patrol the parapet therein.



After Action Reports, con't.

Throughout the day, scores of spectators came and went through the camp, into and around the fort, and asked questions of the company. The company's marching and firing demonstrations took place at 11:00 am, with another in the early afternoon. One of the highlights of the day, the firing demonstrations attracted attention throughout the fort area, as I can attest. At noon, the company, guard included, was dismissed to attend to a midday meal consisting of a variety of vittles that included, but was surely not limited to, fruit, various nuts, fried peas, ham, and salted pork. This was punctuated by a rousing musical rendition of several Union favorites, led by guitar legend Gary Horton, along with several others.



The afternoon passed much as the morning did, with soldiers and civilians alike engaging the public and answering their questions related to camp life, civilian contributions, and the Civil War more generally. The afternoon also featured Private Joe Adiletta and Corporal Irving Moy, who gave presentations on the history of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, and Corporal Moy's erudition on Joseph Pierce. Once 2:30 pm rolled around, the guard was dismissed, and all soldiers and civilians gathered outside the front gate of Fort Trumbull for a photo opportunity. Shortly afterwards, the breaking of camp commenced. Once the tents, gear, and accoutrements were loaded into horseless carriages, the contingent and park staff retired to the fort's visitor's conference center to enjoy a catered dinner courtesy of the Chief Quartermaster himself, Sergeant Christopher Purrone and his fair lady, Karen Purrone.

A very special thanks goes to the Purrone family for providing the sumptuous evening meal, as well as our comrades-in-arms from New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Finally, our thanks should be extended to Park Superintendent Jon Lincoln and his regular and seasonal staff of Fort Trumbull State Park, all of whom were very pleasant and accommodating, especially, the ladies in the gift shop who let me have a free Sprite; though, contrary to what my wife might think, the woman at the fort entrance was not flirting with me!

Michael Conlin

From Matty Cronin, 1st Sgt. 6th New Hampshire...

"I want to thank you for a great event & a great time. All the guys were first class, it was an honor to be there as 1st Sgt. Hope we can do it next year".

From Rob Weber, 1st Lt. 119th New York...

"On behalf of the men of the 119th I want to say THANK YOU for the invitation to this past weekend's event. What a cool place to be and what a cool bunch of guys to be falling in with! I was impressed by both your passion and the respectful tone in which the history we are summoned to render was presented. It was all our pleasure to be part of the day, and we are most grateful for your continued camaraderie. Looking forward to the next one"!

After Action Reports, con't.



Bristol Historical Society Living History Event July 20, 2013

After several muggy, rainy days of summer, the Saturday morning of July 20 broke sunny, warm, and dry for Co. F's living history event in Bristol sponsored by the Bristol Historical Society. The society had planned well; the area of the town green was prepared, and members of the historical society were on hand to assist with any setup work for the day. The park in which we were to bivouac was the very same area in which troops of the War for Independence as well as the Civil War mustered and drilled prior to leaving for combat. So...we felt a definite kinship with our long-ago comrades from Bristol.

The event kicked off around 10:00 AM. Our able Sgt. Purrone gathered the troops first for roll call, then for review by our well-loved 2nd Lieutenant Martinello, followed by 'inspection arms'. Some minor trouble was had in the camp as Pvt. Garafalo was caught in an unsavory act and was made to wear the 'Cheat and Thief' board, surely embarrassing, but no doubt well-deserved! There was much joking in the ranks! Miss Jennie Doyle then performed a dramatic rendition of "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean". Many members of the public passed through our camp in the morning, and many paused to chat with our well-versed soldiers. Meanwhile, a number of interested visitors checked out the U.S. Christian Commission, presented by Julie; the home front/soldier's wife civilian display presented by Lauren; and our extensive surgical display set up in the gazebo by Carolyn. Our company cook, Dog Robber, imparted to the public the various tools and procedures of feeding an army of soldiers 'on the march'. Around noon time the troops and civilians were treated to a scrumptious apple pie lunch at Hincks' Mess. Nearby was set up our rations display and the firearms table. Our brigade flag flew proudly in the light breeze! The public certainly were very much interested in all aspects of our encampment, and the entire event was well-attended.



The troops presented two public demonstrations of the arms and equipment of the soldier, the manual of arms, marching, and firing. The public seemed especially fascinated when Lt. Martinello passed around a pair of 'long johnnies'. Hopefully, the two weddings that took place next door at the Catholic Church during the event were not too much disturbed by our loud musket explosions during the firing demonstrations; it can be noted that those marriages started with a 'bang'! In the afternoon Irving presented to the public his amazing story of our company's own Joseph Pierce.



After a very successful event, the hungry hoard of Co. F retreated to a nearby Italian restaurant for some additional victuals and drink. This was truly a wonderful finish to a very rewarding day at Bristol.

Gary Horton

After Action Reports, con't.

Our annual company picnic was held on August 3, 2013 at the home of Mike and Roseann Adiletta. Thirty members enjoyed a fun day out of wool uniforms and period clothing, eating a delicious variety of food prepared by Chef Mike, enjoying each other's company and playing games of bocce. Chef Mike is also known as Bocce Hustler Mike! Thank you to the Adilettas for hosting the picnic and to everyone for the food they prepared and shared with everyone!



General Mansfield House, Middletown CT September 9, 2013

Mother Nature smiled on Company F again as we held our 5th living history event for 2013 at the General Mansfield House in Middletown. Sunny with just a slight breeze to keep it pleasant, and no threat of rain, kept it comfortable for everyone involved.

Before our program officially started, our ever resourceful Private Pete Garafalo attempted to procure our noon meal by tracking down a tree rat (aka squirrel) that happened to stop by to check out our encampment. Luckily for the squirrel (and us) it ran up a nearby tree, out of range of Pvt. Garafalo's musket.



Company F was a well rounded out group represented by 15 soldiers and six civilians. Besides our usual entourage of soldiers, Sal Carmosino joined us and Jeff Lawrence and his son James drove down from Massachusetts to help out. Jeff announced that he will be joining Company F as a full time member next year.

Welcome Jeff! Our two newest civilians were Roseann Adiletta and novelist Karl Bacon. Roseann, resplendent in her honey yellow dress and straw hat, donned leather gloves to help Dog Robber with the cooking. Karl came to support the troops and to promote his book "An Eye for Glory". Karl informed us that sales were brisk that day.

Just before lunch, visitors to the General Mansfield House and Company F were entertained by Back Swamp, a local ensemble of musicians who performed Civil War era music. Songs by Middletown's own Henry Clay Work and many other classic tunes were played to the delight of the audience.

Throughout the day, the soldiers performed a well-executed load and fire drill and later in the day, they even worked on a skirmish drill, including "firing" from a prone position which Joe Adiletta and James Lawrence both excelled at. The public thoroughly enjoyed it all.



After Action Reports, con't.



Other highlights of the day included Sgt. Chris Purrone's gun display that is always a big hit. Joe Adiletta and Irving Moy did a dual presentation to the public. Joe did his talk on the history of the 14th CVI and Irving on one of the soldiers of Co. F, Joseph Pierce.

The Civilian portion of the encampment had many visitors also. Carolyn, Julie and Lauren each were able to set up a shelter fly under the shade trees, which the site made it particularly inviting for the visitors to stop in to get out of the bright sunlight. Lauren's display now includes ladies underpinnings which always gets a gasp and giggle from the women and girls that came to visit. Carolyn has expanded her display to include dentistry (ouch!) and Julie's Christian Commission is always full of interesting information.

To round out a perfect day (both weather-wise and attendance-wise) Karen Purrone (aka Mathew Brady) was able to capture a new group photograph, one that will be used as our promotional picture for the 2014 season.

After closing down the camp at the General Mansfield House, a happy but tired group then caravanned to Kathy and John Morrison's restored 19th century home for a great buffet dinner. Thank you to Kathy and John for opening your house to the troops!!

Karen Purrone



Fort Jay

Governors Island September 10, 2013

I'm not going to blow our own horn or brag about the Saturday event at Governors Island, but I'll simply say...when it comes to friends supporting friends or fellow National Regiment (NR) units and like-minded groups, Co. F knows how to step up to the plate! On September 10, 2013 the 69th NY, 119th NY, 150th NY, 27th CT and 14th CT joined forces with the National Park Service (NPS) Fort Jay Artillery Battery to present Civil War history to the public on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

We arrived in time from Connecticut to take the 9:00 a.m. ferry from the South Street Maritime Building for a short ride from lower Manhattan to the island. Mark Marganski and Peter Garafalo arrived on an earlier ferry. The island has a lot of history. Named "Paggank" for Nut Island by the Native Americans, it was formally re-named Governors Island by the British in 1784. Fort Columbus served as the headquarters for Major General Winfield Scott Hancock when he was given command in 1872 of the Division of the Atlantic. Hancock ran his 12880 presidential campaign from his home here where he died in 1886, still in command of the Atlantic Division. Fort Williams housed Confederate prisoners before their transfer to other federal prisons.

After Action Reports, con't.

Irving Moy and I represented the 12th NY Regiment in dark blue uniforms and were stationed inside Fort Columbus (as Fort Jay was called then), along with my wife, Lauren, as my “visiting wife” and Linda Russell, who played period music on period instruments. We talked about the history of the fort, which was stationed here, the Confederate prisons that came through the island and the different types of tents that were set up for display on the green. Irving also talked about Joseph Pierce, who attracted many visiting Asian visitors. Irving and I also checked out the powder magazine, and we even got to hear what the cannon firing outside the fort sounded like inside the magazine. Even without a projectile, the one shot echoed loudly in there.

John Morrison, Mark and Peter fell in as the 1st Minnesota outside the fort and drilled and participated in the firing demonstration. Mark added this, *“I am not a writer by any means, but the day on the island was terrific and I know Pete and John as well enjoyed the event. We arrived early and were able to look around for a while. Drill and firing demonstrations went very well, and we spoke with quite a few spectators, a very enjoyable event. If we are invited again next year, I would like to camp there over the weekend; the city skyline must look incredible at night.”*

I’m not sure what they ate for lunch, but we had peanuts and plums and water inside the fort. Better than the Confederate prisons! We all were off the island on the 5:30 ferry and had a safe trip home. If you have the chance to attend this event in 2014, I’d suggest you try a Friday night stay over. You’ll get to see more of the historical buildings on the island and the evening skylines of Manhattan, Brooklyn, New Jersey, the Statue of Liberty and the boats going back and forth in the bay. A whole different look at night!

I’d like to thank Lt. Rob Weber of the 119th for his invitation to join them for this event and to Joe Korber, NPS, for making arrangements for our attendance. It was a pleasure for Co. F to gladly return the favor to the 119th for its support at our Fort Trumbull event in June. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and old friends we haven’t seen for a while.



Castle William

Lt. Paul Martinello



Weston Historical Society
September 28, 2013

President Abraham Lincoln, fully aware of the personal risk involved in traveling to the Living History presented by Company F of the Fourteenth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment, decided to forego the usual cavalcade of outriders and security detail to journey instead by private coach. His route to Weston was a closely guarded secret, never divulged even to his aides. The services of an unknown driver, loyal to the president, were procured. Much public attention, both in adulation and vilification was therefore avoided, and the president’s passage through the byways of our fair state was little noted nor long remembered.

In some ways, this living history was much like the others I have attended. The camp street was set up neatly. Dog’s fire smoke tinged the air. The ladies set up their tables of Civil War memorabilia. The men drilled. Lt. Martinello addressed the crowd and answered questions. Musket volleys thundered. Irving died—again. Men

After Action Reports, con't.



and women alike conversed easily with every visitor that showed the slightest interest. Photographs were taken to preserve the memory of the day.

Lewis Dube gave his time-tested and believable impression of our sixteenth president. He greeted visitors with warm words and presidential handshakes, and he was always ready to answer any question put to him about the man he portrayed. He was even seen engaging in perhaps the most popular activity of presidents on the campaign trail—holding infants. The president also inspected the troops twice. Never have the ranks of Company F stood so straight, their musket barrels gleaming in perfect alignment one with the other. Karen's photos bear witness to this fact.



This observer also found several aspects of the Weston Living History unique and memorable. Whenever I wandered near Bill's chicken sizzling away for what seemed like hours, the hollow gnawing in the pit of my stomach reminded me that it was not yet the dinner hour. I cannot recall having ever relished the thought of partaking of a simple piece of chicken so much, and it certainly did not disappoint, and the cornbread was definitely a bonus. Jen Lawrence sang patriotic airs in a clear and perfectly in tune soprano. Poetry readings from the period moved gathered listeners to silence. The president was nearly beamed by a falling apple. During the morning firing demonstration, powder smoke hung in the air. It drifted slowly behind the barn and seemed to linger there before being lifted and driven away by gentle breezes. I walked through the barn to the rear and stood still, breathing deeply of the acrid smoke before it could dissipate. A simple thing, but memorable to me on that day, because I smelled and even tasted a little more of history at Weston.

On the way home to Naugatuck, the president waxed eloquent with praise for the conduct of the event, and for the members of Company F, remembering his two guards for the day (Pete and Mark) with nothing but kindly affection. He was particularly impressed with the spirit of camaraderie within Company F. Never, the president said, had he enjoyed an event and the people involved in it so much.

At one point, when traffic upon the road seemed to clamor from every side, I asked the president if he might hold onto his words for a short while, to which he readily agreed. A few minutes later, the way was clear once again, but the moments of silence had given me time to reflect upon the president's words. I told him that Company F is a very welcoming group of folks, in large part due, in my opinion, to the fact that it is family friendly. Husbands and wives and sons and daughters are all welcome to participate and add to the experience of reenacting and preserving the history of the Fourteenth, and I believe this quality is foundational to the strength and character of Company F.



After Action Reports, con't.

October 19, 1863
West Haven, Connecticut

My Very Dearest Clara—

My time on the road affords me the opportunity to put pen to paper and write you this letter. I pray this finds you well—I am the same. Since last I wrote you, I have been detached from service in the field with the 14th Connecticut due to my convalescence in Jarvis Hospital in Baltimore, from whence I was sent back to Nutmeg State along with several other of the lads to gather some recruits to volunteer to help refill our ranks, depleted from this past years' campaigning.

So it was that I found myself at the West Haven Veterans Museum in the company of many fine men from Company F, led by Lieutenant Martinello, Sergeant Purrone, and Corporal Pierce. We were met on-site by a number of civilians from the home front, including representatives from the Christian Commission, led by Mrs. Julie Moy. The USCC set up a display as to their works to care to us poor soldiers in the field, and doubtless gained a number of donations from the West Haven locals to further that aim. A local correspondent—Bacon by name—was sharing his own tales and stories from their field as well. As I gather it, he has been following the army; specifically our own 14th!—and has been reporting our experiences back to local papers. Perhaps he is the “Dunne Browne” that has been in the Springfield Republican?

For our part, the lads of Co. F opened the day with an exposition to the locals of the life of a soldier, our arms, and our accoutrements with the hopes that the good clothing and equipment and the promises of \$13 a day should be sufficient to lure some to enlist and bolster our numbers. We were graced by the ‘Nightingale of Colt Meadows’, Miss Jennie Doyle, with a rendition of ‘Columbia, Gem of the Ocean’ which was likewise well-received. ‘Dog Robber’ Pvt. Mellow of Hincks’ Mess shared a display of such rations as the government is able to provide us, as well as an explanation of the mess system that we self-organize into in order to keep ourselves nourished. From there, we commenced with an exhibition of the more common elements of the Manual of Arms, and a firing demonstration. As with everywhere on the recruiting trip, this was a favorite of the locals.



Following a brief repose from our haversacks, more presentations recommenced, including a discussion of the structure and form of the armies in the field by the youngest Pvt. Adiletta, one of the life and experiences of our immigrant Corporal Pierce (who speculated what he expected from his future life, to boot!), and a demonstration of the knapsack and blanket rolls that we use in the field to carry our personal effects (when we are not losing them due to having been required to leave them behind, that is!) All these demonstrations were performed with aplomb such as I have become accustomed to with the lads. At the close of these discussions, we in the military performed another drill and firing demonstration, before breaking our camp.

After Action Reports, con't.

At the close of the day, we gathered at a local eatery for a supper graciously provided for by Corporal Pierce's doppelganger, Corporal Moy and his spouse, USCC Commissioner Mrs. Julie Moy; for food, friendship, and revelry. This was particularly wonderful given that this evening marked our last day in the state before heading back down to the seat of war where doubtless we will be entering into winter quarters for the duration. While it will certainly be a long and cold winter, our hearts were all warmed by this gathering back around hearth with good friends; and that warmth may well keep us until again we are together.

My dearest Clara, I do hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. Know that I think of you often, and fondly. Though this war keeps us apart, I have every faith and confidence that the coming year will bring us a resolution to the conflict, and a restoration of our Union. Until then, I remain---

Your Obt Srvt,
Jeff Lawrence



Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes

The Executive Committee has met and defined the events for the upcoming year. A call goes out for attendance for the first event. The Dog Robber responds. The clock starts.

This is a look at what transpires at Hincks' Mess in preparation for an event.

The "Dog Robber" begins by putting together his menu. Mind you, I have many dishes that can be prepared for an event. Many sources for "of the era" recipes are perused for new additions. The object is not to have the same dish twice during the same year and to avoid having that dish repeated at the same event from last season (unless I get pleading requests from Company F because they absolutely love the item such as Sweet Potato Pie, Pecan Pie, Fry Bread, etc). The Dog Robber of Company F does not cook hotdogs at any event.

There are three items to get ready: bread; an entrée; a dessert. Once these three items have been selected, Irving is notified of the menu. A note is sent to all members indicating what will be served. The recipes are printed off and are used as a grocery shopping list, at home to make the breads/rolls and desserts, and at the event to prepare the entrée.

The attendees are asked to reply in the affirmative if they plan to partake of the vittles. Once a final count of attendees has been finalized, work on the cost per soldier begins. On the computer is a spreadsheet with ingredients, package sizes, and prices. A new spreadsheet is opened and the menu items (with ingredients and measurements) are loaded into it.



Behind the Scenes, con't.

The menu items must now be scaled. That is, if the item yields 8 servings and I have 16 people to feed, then the ingredient measurements are doubled. If the item yields 4 servings then the measurement would be quadrupled.

A formula that links back to the ingredient spreadsheet is created and the cell number that contains the price is selected. The formula is finished by the scale factor multiplying the price based on the package size.



When all of the menu items have been priced out, I go back through the ingredients and enter zeros in any ingredient item that I already have on hand. At the beginning of the season, bulk items such as; 5 pounds of flour, 5 pounds of sugar, a container of salt, a dozen eggs, etc. are purchased. As the season marches on, these ingredients get used and will have to be purchased once again. Each of the bulk items has been priced out per cup, per teaspoon or tablespoon, or ounce.

The next step adds all of the ingredient prices for each menu item to give the menu item cost. Lastly, all of the costs are totaled up and divided by the number of attendees. This gives the cost per person. This information is e-mailed to Irving so that he can inform everyone what the meal charge will be.

On the Thursday before the event, the sales ads for Stop and Shop, Big Y, Shop Rite and now the new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Grocery in West Hartford have arrived in the newspaper. The ads are matched against the ingredients that are needed and purchased from where the best deal can be found. After shopping, the refrigerator and freezer are packed with the purchases. Not factored into the individual price per person are any sale items that are purchased. Some supermarkets have BOGO sales or buy one get two free. As an example: The ham for the boiled dinner that was going to be used at the Bristol Historical Society event would have cost \$10.99 for a 3# butt. This would have given each diner roughly 3-1/2 ounces each (about \$.79). The butt would have needed to be sliced after cooking so the weights would most likely vary. Big Y had a sale about 2 weeks prior to the event. Buy 1 package of 2 6-ounce ham steaks and get 2 additional packages for free. That would be 36 ounces. For \$6.38 more, each diner will end up with a 6-ounce pre-sliced piece of ham (almost twice as much for \$.62). The savings are put aside. If a menu is scheduled and there are no sales that can be taken advantage of, the extra savings from prior events are used.

On Friday, the baking begins in the morning. First, the items on the counters have to be moved so that I have some space to work. Because I would have to start cooking over the open campfire about 3:00 AM in order to have breads and desserts ready for the noon meal, these items are made in my home kitchen.

While the first item is baking, it's out to the garage to begin to loading the car. The usual load out begins with 5 camp chests. They contain the field desk, pots and pans, coffee pot, first aid kits, towels, refrigerator box, wood bowls, tin ladles, wooden spoons, grill, pot rack, and cooking tripod. Also included are dining fly with poles and ropes, wood counter tops, metal stakes, baskets, sledge hammer, cutting board, and miscellaneous other items. The first items in are a heavy moving blanket and then pre-cut pieces of plywood to protect the floor of the car.

Back in the house to check on what is going on in the oven and begin to prepare the second baked item. Back out to the car to finish loading. When everything is out of the oven and cooled, the breads and desserts are wrapped and made ready to load into the car. Any prep work such as cutting vegetable or meats and packaging and refrigerating them is done next. I try to clean as I go. However, when all of the cooking has finished, the kitchen still needs additional cleaning. The frozen items are removed from the freezer and placed in the refrigerator.

Early Saturday morning, all of the refrigerated items are removed and placed in plastic shopping bags. Freezing about 5 bottles of water keeps items cold in the camp chest refrigerator all day long. The latest addition is a food checklist to make sure that everything needed for the event is accounted for and loaded into the car. The items needing chilling are placed in the camp chest refrigerator that is always loaded on the left rear of the car for easy access. All of the other items needing transport are carefully tucked in.

After driving to the event, the car is unloaded and everything is made ready to set up. We have plenty of help setting up the dining fly. Mike or Joey or Nick dig the fire pit and then the camp grill is put together. The pot rack is assembled and our tin pots are hung from "S" hooks. The coffee pot is hung from an "S" hook on a tripod.



Behind the Scenes, con't.



Wood for the fire has been brought usually by Paul, Nick or Gary. The firewood is arranged in the fire pit and then lit. I have only used more than 1 match one time. First strike, immediate fire. At one event, Warren taught me how to light a fire with flint and steel. At the Fort Trumbull event, he presented me with my own flint and steel tools. He requested that I create a fire before he would certify me as a keeper of the flame.

While the fire is burning down to coals, I set up the kitchen. The camp chests have already been unloaded and they are arranged to support the counter tops. Anything in plastic shopping bags is hidden in one of the now empty camp chests. After the Somers event, it was suggested that we find some container that we can hide our garbage in rather than having a plastic bag sitting on the ground (sometimes there is so much trash that there is not enough room in the chests). Our large tin pots are filled with water. Many of the dishes that have been prepared are stews and require water. The water is also used to clean dishes and put out the fire at the end of the event. If a pot is left over high heat with not enough water in it, the tin solder starts to soften and run down the seams. I have repaired our small tin pot once already.

The meal is prepared using tin pots or cast iron frying pans or Dutch Ovens. You have to be able to multi-task at an event. Trying to read and prepare a recipe, watch the intensity of the fire, add firewood, move pots and pans around to hotter or cooler places above the fire, talk to folks, and keep a certain Sergeant away from the biscuits and desserts keeps me moving. Once lunch is ready, it is set up in the kitchen tent and everyone lines up for the first serving. Sometimes, there is enough for seconds and even thirds. The bread or biscuits and the entrée are served first. Once they have been consumed, everyone lines up for the dessert. You know that if you do not finish your meal there can be no dessert for you. Many times, visitors have gotten into line and want to know how much they have to pay. Unfortunately, public health laws prohibit us from serving the general public. Sorry!

After lunch, cleanup begins. The pots and pans are given a quick scrub and everything is lined up to be put away at the end of the event. At closing time, the camp chests are loaded, the dining fly is folded and along with the guide ropes, placed into a bag. Baskets are placed in shopping bags, Side poles and ridge pole are strapped together and everything is put back into the car. Company F likes to gather together after an event and go out to a local restaurant for dinner and fellowship.

Arriving back home on Saturday evening, the car is put into the garage. No unpacking tonight. Too tired!

Sunday morning, after coffee and reading the paper, the car is taken out of the garage and then backed up to the door. The unload begins. Once everything is out of the car and sitting on the floor or leaning against the walls, the camp chests are unpacked. All pots, pans, wood spoons, dippers, and knives are taken into the house and thoroughly scrubbed and sanitized. They sit on the front porch to dry in the sun. The next step is to oil the tin ware with mineral oil to keep them from rusting. If any of the cast iron pans or Dutch Ovens were used, they just get wiped clean with hot water and a paper towel. Using dish soap in cast iron removes the seasoning. The seasoning in my cast iron pans is currently 8 years old.

When everything is dry, it gets put back into the camp chests. Everything fits a certain way in a box. Sometimes a small adjustment has to be made to get everything to fit. Just like the car, if things are not put back into the garage in a specific manner, the car won't fit back in the garage. Once everything is returned to its proper place, the "Dog Robber" can sit down and relax and wait for the next call to duty.

Bill Mellow, aka Dog Robber





Hincks' Mess

SWEET CORN BREAD

2-2/3 Cups all purpose flour
2-2/3 Cups yellow cornmeal
1-1/2 Cups sugar
2-2/3 Tbl. baking powder
2 Tsp. Salt

2-2/3 Cups milk
6 Ounces butter
8.25 Oz. Cream Corn
2 eggs

Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees F.

I use a Griswold #9 Cast-iron pan that has been lightly greased with Crisco and then put into the oven to pre-heat.

Whisk the first 5 ingredients together.

Whisk the milk and butter together over low heat until the butter is melted, then add the cream corn and heat for about 2 minutes.

Break the eggs into your measuring cup and whisk them with a fork.

Slowly pour the eggs into the warm milk/butter mixture as you whisk briskly to prevent the eggs from scrambling.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry, stirring until just moistened.

Remove the cast iron pan from the oven and pour the batter into it.

Return to the oven and bake for about 30 minutes or until a tester comes out clean.

Cool in the pan.





Scheduled Events

Scheduled Events for 2014 TBA

All living history events will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the designated location. Refer any questions to the event coordinator.

Recruitment poster courtesy of Karl Bacon and the Naugatuck Historical Society

2014 Co. F Annual Meeting and 2014 Membership Renewals

Our annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014, at the General Joseph Mansfield House, starting at 10:00 a.m. We will be voting on our 2014 budget, schedule and other company business. More information will be sent to you as the date gets closer. In November Paul Martinello will be sending out membership renewal applications for 2014 by e-mail. If you plan to make a donation with your membership renewal, it needs to be received by December 31, to receive credit on your 2013 federal income tax return.

This newsletter was “going to press” just as Company F was heading down to march in the 2013 Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg. Photos taken by members are slowly trickling in and After Action Reports still need to be written. Highlights of the weekend will appear in the January-March 2014 issue of *Company F Forward!* But as a hint of what is to come, here are a few photos.

Karen, Editor

